

By NISHTHA CHHABRA

Every January since 1977, Puget Sound's Budget Task Force, which is made up of the Academic Vice President, Vice President for Finance and Administration, students, faculty and staff, makes a recommendation for a new school budget to President Ronald Thomas. The budget recommendation is what they believe will strengthen the University's mission while accommodating to economic realities such as inflation. Last year there was an average 3.72 percent increase in overall tuition, standard room and board and ASUPS fee in order to adhere to school quality standards. With 73 percent of the University's revenue coming from student tuition and the new budget coming up, it is important to understand how this budget is formed, where the raise in tuition has gone and how the distribution of student tuition works.

There are currently four budgets on campus. All of these budgets add up the total University revenue, which is around \$120,000,000. The primary budget, called the educational and general (E&G) budget, is around 78 percent of the entire University's revenue. The second budget, called the auxiliary budget, is essentially room, board and bookstore and is about 20 percent of the school's revenue. The third budget is the ASUPS budget. The fourth budget is the capital budget, which is the money that comes from donors and is used when the school builds or renovates a building on campus. Both the third and fourth budgets account for less than one percent of the entire University revenue.

Currently, roughly 84 percent of the total education and general revenue, the largest budget on campus, comes from net tuition and fees. This means that \$76,643,000 of the overall \$91,162,000 estimated and gross revenue from last year came from the net tuition

of every individual student on campus. For 2014-15, 28 percent of this budget's revenue was distributed among campus facilities, academic programs, student services and technology. The other 72 percent of this budget went towards the compensation of the faculty, staff and student workers. This only includes the compensation of employees associated with the school. Employees associated with dining services, the bookstore and maintenance are compensated through the auxiliary and capital budget. However, the compensation of the E&G staff and faculty is not only the largest net expenditure of the E&G revenue, but also the largest net expenditure of the entire University.

"The Budget Task Force approves the pool of money for both the faculty compensation and the pool for staff compensation. The dean of the college in consultation with the faculty determines the faculty pay scale. So no one on the Budget Task Force determines anyone's individual pay. The Budget Task Force figures out what we can afford and recommends what overall compensation is competitive in the market. And they do not do it for staff or executives either. Because 72 percent of the E&G budget is compensation, when you raise salaries it consumes so much of whatever tuition increase there is," Sherry Mondou, Vice President for Finance and Administration, said.

This means that much of the 3.75 percent tuition increase will go towards the raised salaries of the University's staff and faculty.

"The decisions about faculty salary are based on the work that the dean does, and they have a faculty scale. And the salaries of staff are determined by the level of responsibility through an HR compensation system where different skill levels have different grades and dif-

ferent pay associations with them, and that is all done with supervisors in HR and the cabinet outside of BTF. And then on executive compensation the board of trustees has a compensation committee and a compensation philosophy statement that addresses how they are going to determine executive compensation and again that is set by the board," Mondou said.

According to the University's website, the allocation of the increase in staff pool will be determined by the President in consultation with his cabinet, while the allocation of the compensation pool will be through the academic vice president. An example of how this distribution might work can be seen in the highest employee salary list, which is shown in Puget Sound's IRS 990 form on Guidestar from 2011-2013. According to the 990 form, President Thomas is the most highly compensated employee at the University. In 2011, he had a compensation of \$432,141 with an estimated extra compensation of \$178,941 and in 2013 a compensation of \$478,643 with a \$211,682 estimated extra compensation. This is over an 11 percent increase in net compensation of the president in two years. The second-highest-compensated employee at the University is the Academic Vice President and Dean, Kristine Bartanen. The highest-paid employees listed on the form include David Beers, Janet Hallman and Sherry Mondou, all of whom are involved with the budgeting process at the University.

The auxiliary budget, the second-largest budget on campus, is sustained mainly by the room and board fees. This year the room and board fee experienced a 3.93 percent increase.

"Dining and Housing, bookstores and conference services

BUDGET  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are all auxiliary services, which means their fees have to self-sustain their operations, so the room and board fees pay for the renovation of the residential halls. It pays for the food we buy in the server, it pays for the labor to cook and prepare and serve the food and it pays for the maintenance of Wheelock,” Mondou said.

For 2014-15, the auxiliary revenue budget was \$25,333,000. \$7,966,000 (31 percent) of this went into facilities, \$5,185,000 (21 percent) went into the compensation for their respective specific staff members, \$872,000 (3 percent) went into student compensation (e.g. the student S.U.B. workers) while the \$3,475,000 left over (14 percent) served as an overhead contribution to the E&G budget. Each individual expense breakdown of the auxiliary revenue budget is less than one percent of the entire university revenue, which means the net salary of the employees at Residence Life, the bookstore and the S.U.B., is less than one percent of the total amount of money the school makes in one year. While a majority of the overall student tuition goes into compensation followed by the auxiliary budget, the expenditure on facilities and maintaining the University is comparatively low.

“We have five people on the grounds field that maintain all of the athletic fields, all of the pruning, all of the mowing and they spend to their salaries we spent \$90,000 a year. The people wonder, ‘Gosh, our grounds look so great, we must be spending a fortune,’ when really our per-square cost is so much less than our peer institutions,” Janet Hallman said.

Puget Sound building and grounds costs per square foot of campus are \$3.25. This includes compensation (salary and benefits) for facilities staff and operating expenses to clean and maintain campus buildings and grounds.

It does not include utilities because the cost of utilities varies so much by region. At similar-sized colleges (2,000-3,000 students) these same costs are, on average, \$5.36 per square foot of campus. Puget Sound has been able to keep its utility costs flat with no increase since 2009.

“We do all the analysis from all the groups we then make a recommendation to President Thomas at the end of this semester. In January you and everyone on campus will get an email that alerts them to the BTF’s reporting set of budget that went to the President. What will come out in January will be the new Budget Task Force budget recommendation. Then there will be a two-week comment period and then in the February board meeting the President’s recommendation will be presented to the board. They will discuss and debate it and then vote on the budget,” Hallman said.

The budget recommendation proposed to the President can be found on the University website along with other relevant information regarding this topic. When analyzing the budget breakdown, it is important to understand where the school’s money is currently going and how it is being distributed. Campus members are encouraged to send comments to the President on how they believe the budget should be distributed. The budget is mostly based upon money that is provided by the 2,600 students that attend the University and every student at Puget Sound has a voice in how they believe the new budget should meet the University’s mission, strategic goals and core values.

Senior Gift Campaign benefits future students

By ZEINAH KARA

The Senior Class Gift Campaign of 2014-2015 is currently advocating for students of the 2015 graduating class to donate.

“The Senior Class Gift Campaign is a way for seniors to give back to the school before they even graduate,” senior Abby Mattson, Senior Gift Campaign Executive Committee member for Outdoor Activities, said.

Students about to graduate this upcoming spring semester are encouraged to pledge that they will donate \$75 over the course of five years, starting this year. The donation starts from \$5 the first year to \$10, \$15, \$20 and \$25 over the next four years after graduation.

“It’s important to be able to give back to the school in a direct way, so you know exactly where your money is going,” Mattson said. “It’s not just going into some random fund for the school, you know it’s going to help students come here in the future.”

The donation money is directly pooled together for scholarship money for current and future Uni-

versity of Puget Sound students. The money fills in the gaps of financial aid given by the school, the government and alumni.

“The cool thing about it is that it gives money, and all the money goes towards scholarships for people,” senior Andrea Eaton, Senior Gift Campaign Executive Committee member for the Art Department, said.

The campaign has multiple representatives with differing interests on campus that allow them to facilitate bringing together all types of Puget Sound seniors for this cause.

“I think it’s a nice way to bring the senior class together. The actual campaign has kind of a competitive feel to it, so there are different teams that are supposed to represent presences on campus,” Mattson said.

In addition to uniting the 2015 graduating class, it is also a way for students to stay involved with Puget Sound even after they graduate. Students can sustain the connection they experienced throughout their years on campus by donating.

“By donating and by pledging to donate for the next couple years, you’re kind of creating this tether and connection to the school,” se-

nior Alicia Cohn, Senior Gift Campaign Public Relations Officer, said. “So even though you graduate, you’re not going to be kind of separated from the school, you still feel like you have this connection and you have a stake in the school because you are donating.”

Because the money goes strictly to filling the gap in merit and academic scholarships for new and current Puget Sound students, seniors who donate have an impact on future students’ opportunities to come to this school or improve current students’ financial aid.

“I know I’m able to come here because of financial aid, so someone out there donated to me. So it’s just nice to be able to have that kind of power that you can help people come here,” Cohn said.

This tradition of pledging allows seniors to continue the tradition of paying it forward, creating more opportunities for people to have a quality educational experience.

“You can never have too much money to give to scholarships,” Cohn said. “I just think that if we have so much money to give for scholarships, students who would really thrive here, but maybe couldn’t af-

ford to come here now have this opportunity, and we could create more diversity and more kinds of students on this campus.”

90 percent of all Puget Sound students receive some sort of financial aid, and the Senior Class Gift Campaign hopes to encourage more alumni and current seniors to consider where their scholarship or other form of aid comes from.

“So if you have a scholarship right now, it’s probably, most likely from a past Gift Campaign,” Eaton said.

Current seniors can pledge to donate \$75 over five years or choose any amount they wish to give to help impact someone’s Puget Sound experience. The Senior Class Gift Campaign runs this fall semester and continues throughout spring 2015.

“It can start from us. Every little thing counts,” Cohn said.

Students can donate by bringing cash or check to the Annual Giving Office in Jones 304, look for student tabling in the Wheelock Student Center, or online at <http://www.pugetsound.edu/one-of-a-kind/senior-class-gift/>.

Senior awarded Rhodes scholarship

By ANNA GOEBEL

Senior Billy Rathje was named a Rhodes Scholar on Saturday, Nov. 22, joining just two other Puget Sound graduates to have ever received the scholarship and becoming the first recipient since 1987.

The scholarship covers all expenses for recipients to continue their academic study at the University of Oxford for up to four years after completing their undergraduate degree. Rathje and 31 other highly qualified winners from across the nation are now a part of a community of Rhodes Scholars that includes U.S. Presidents, influential scientists and activists among many others. The 32 Rhodes Scholars were chosen out of a pool of 877 applicants nominated by their respective universities.

After the University nominated him, Rathje submitted his application on Oct. 1. The extensive application included a personal statement, a CV and five to eight letters of recommendation. 16 finalists from the Pacific Northwest region, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Or-

egon and Washington, were selected for a final interview. Rathje was interviewed by a panel of five individuals, most of whom were previous Rhodes Scholars, in Seattle before learning he was to receive the prestigious scholarship. Only two regional winners were selected from the 16 finalists.

“I was shocked. I was like me...I was super grateful but also just floored. I was not expecting it at all. The other candidates were amazing. I think any one of them could’ve gotten it,” Rathje said.

Rathje believes that the reason he stood out among these candidates was due to his unusual combination of interests. Rathje is a double major in computer science and English literature with a minor in math and has done extensive work in combining the two fields.

“I think my interaction across those disciplines has been something really helpful in my work that they may have looked at and my willingness to explore...and see the connections,” Rathje said.

Rathje also has an array of other interests that have made him so success-

ful. His accomplishments include developing an app, writing musicals and co-founding the first online theater journal where playwrights can publish their work. He hopes to continue this journal in his time at Oxford.

“I’m really excited about moving it forward... hopefully bring it to Oxford too,” Rathje said.

His other hobbies include reading, writing and playing guitar and piano. Rathje is looking forward to exploring these interests further while at Oxford.

“I want to get really involved in the cultural scene there, travel in Europe, get involved in English, the humanities, theater at Oxford. There are some really exciting opportunities,” Rathje said.

Rathje will start at Oxford next fall and will be there for two years. While there, he is planning to get a master’s degree in computer science and possibly another degree as well. Further down the road, Rathje is considering a Ph.D. in hopes of becoming a computer science professor so that he can bring his passion for computer sciences and the humanities to the class-

room.

“I want to teach...I want to bring English more into the computer sciences,” Rathje said.

Rathje is quick to call his time here at Puget Sound instrumental in being named a Rhodes Scholar, particularly because of the University’s liberal arts learning environment.

“The liberal arts environment is huge. I don’t think at any other university I would be able to explore the connections between the humanities and computer science in the way that I have,” Rathje said.

Rathje also points to the support of his advisors, professors and friends as an essential part of his success thus far.

“The support here...has been amazing. Teachers encouraging me on an idea that I thought never had any potential. The fellowship resources here are really amazing. The advisors, my friends the students that kept me sane throughout the application process,” Rathje said. “The University...and my family supported me a lot throughout the application process. It was a team effort.”

SECURITY REPORT

The following is a breakdown of incidents reported to Security Services and occurring on campus between Dec. 2, 2014 and Dec. 8, 2014.

**Malicious Mischief/Vandalism:** There were two incidents reported during the week. A fire extinguisher was unnecessarily discharged in a fraternity house and a facilities staff member reported unreadable markings scratched into a mirror in one of the Fieldhouse public bathrooms.

**Burglary/Theft:** A student reported a set of Boze brand stereo speakers stolen from his room in a residence hall. The student and his roommate were away and left the door unlocked.

Crime Prevention Tips:

- Always report suspicious activity to Security Services by calling 253.879.3311. Security is open 24/7.
- Do not leave valuables on campus over the winter break. Please take portable electronic devices, including laptop computers, home with you.
- Secure bicycles with a U-bolt style and lock through the frame.
- Do not walk alone at night. If you aren’t with a group of friends, take advantage of the Security Courtesy Escort service.
- Stay current on security related activities and incidents on campus – like us on Facebook.

**Note about Winter Break Parking:** Security highly recommends taking your vehicle home with you or storing it off-campus in a secure location if possible during the break period. If you have no option but to leave it on campus, please contact Security. Vehicles must be registered for winter break parking to park on campus during this period. This is separate from the regular academic year parking registration. Security will be providing a fenced area in the Wheelock Student Center lot for winter break parking. This is a free service offered to students. And while Security staff will be diligent about keeping the area secure, we can’t accept responsibility for loss or damage to/from vehicles.

WHERE TO FIND  
THE TRAIL

- BLACK BEAR YOGURT
- BLUEBEARD COFFEE
- CAFE BROUSSEAU
- METRONOME COFFEE
- SHAKABRAH JAVA
- GIBSON’S FROZEN YOGURT

THE PUGET SOUND TRAIL

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The Trail is an independent, student-run organization funded by ASUPS. The Trail seeks to produce a credible weekly newspaper that serves as a comprehensive source of information relevant to its readership. The Trail acts as an archival record for the university, serves as a link between University of Puget Sound and the greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse. Visit [trail.pugetsound.edu](http://trail.pugetsound.edu) for the full mission statement.



# Final examinations are not the best way to test

## More creative assessments could serve students well

By MELANIE SCHAFFER

Classes are finally over, and students all over campus are celebrating their freedom. Come Sunday, however, one thought will be plaguing nearly every student at Puget Sound: final exams. From an outside perspective, it seems like there isn't really a point to them since they will mostly be testing students on concepts they've already learned, so why even bother? The thing is, they might not be so terrifying for students if they weren't worth such a huge percentage of the student's grade. So much so that this one last test could actually end up lowering the student's grade a full letter or two.

For students like sophomore Natalie Temple this effect is even more devastating. "I'm just not as good on exams as I am in other works," she said. She, and many students like her, simply aren't good test takers. It's not that they haven't learned the material or that they left their studying until the night before, it's just that as soon as they sit down with the actual exam in front of them, they instantly forget everything they spent so much time studying.

However, this kind of freezing up doesn't happen to everyone, and some students actually do see the benefit in final exams. Many science majors, for instance, are actually glad they have a cumulative test

at the end of the semester. Samantha Burch, a first year and aspiring pediatrician, had just this opinion.

"Without being forced to go back and reapply yourself to subjects, you won't be able to remember stuff for the next course," Burch said.

It's true, many science classes, especially introductory ones, are based primarily in rote memorization of basic facts. The goal of the course is for students to come out of it knowing the information so they can then apply it in future courses they take.

For science majors, a final exam makes perfect sense. When it comes to other disciplines, however, the benefits of exams become fuzzy.

When commenting on Harvard University's decision to do away with final exams, Jonathan Zimmerman, a professor at New York University, said, "By discouraging exams, then, Harvard is hardly forsaking academic rigor. Instead, it's clearing the way for a more engaging, challenging and truly educative college experience."

According to Zimmerman, all final exams do is require a student to memorize information, but not synthesize it. He argued that if students were somehow tested on their knowledge of the course's material in an alternative and more engaging way, they would ultimately come out of the class with a better understanding of what they were taught than if they had to sit down and write facts down on a piece of paper for two hours.

The most feasible solution to this is the final essay, which definitely does not require rote memorization. In fact, if a student were to hand in a final paper comprised only of a comprehensive list of the facts they learned in a particular class, they would almost certainly fail. This is because the point of the essay isn't to show how much you've learned, it's to show how well you've learned what you did. To write a successful essay, the student has to take one or two concepts from their course and analyze them thoroughly in order to find a deeper or more powerful meaning, which gives the student exactly the type of college experience Zimmerman prefers.

Essays, while probably not the first thing someone chooses to do in their spare time, can actually be much more fun and interesting than an exam. With an essay, the student could possibly have the freedom to pick their own topic and then choose the way in which they approach it. This way, they get to write about something that actually interests them, not just what they had to learn in the course. Students also get more flexibility with time constraints when it comes to writing their essay, since it's assigned several weeks before it's due. This relieves any anxiety about having to get everything done within a short period of time; unless, of course, they left the paper to the last minute.

Finals in general are stressful for nearly every student, and they defi-



PHOTO COURTESY/MAKAYLAA CLANCY

**Finals week:** Tests upon tests cause unnecessary stress for students.

nately aren't the most fun part of the semester. Yes, it's true that in some cases exams can't be replaced, since they really are the best way of demonstrating a student's knowledge of the material. However, in many other cases, the substitution of an essay for an exam would not only relieve

some stress for students, it would also more accurately show exactly what those students gained from each course.

# Assigning gender roles to toys is childish

By JORDYN ATKINSON

Despite strides made towards equality of the sexes, toy stores are still dividing their merchandise into boys' and girls' sections. Not surprisingly, the aisles designed for young girls are shockingly pink, focused on beauty, fashion and family role-play, while boys' aisles contain toys that are more centered around destruction, action and building. Commercials for stores such as Toys 'R' Us and Walmart depict each gender in different scenes playing separately with their relatively stereotypical toys, such as guns or baby dolls.

In fact, it seems that gender-directed advertising and manufacturing is actually worse today than it was 50 years

ago. Look at the Denmark-located company The Lego Group, for instance. It seems impossible that simple, interlocking blocks could ever have a target audience more narrowly focused than innovative and playful children. That was exactly the case for the company's ad campaign in the late eighties; their print advertisements depicted both boys and girls bursting with pride, posing with the Lego creations they had made themselves, alongside captions boasting the positive effects that building can have on kids.

However, if you fast-forward to modern day, the once-simple blocks have become immensely more complex, with countless new ideas and subcategories. In the boys' section of a store, Lego sets

showcase pirates, trains, safaris, space and other adventurous activities. Meanwhile, The Lego Group released their attempt at an alternative product for girls called "Lego Friends" in 2012, which are sets that contain mini-dolls and showcase pink and purple color schemes, rather than the toy's usual array of primary colors.

Lego creating different sectors of their product for boys and girls is not a new tactic; selling essentially the same product in slightly different colors or themes is simply a business strategy.

However, product manufacturers most likely do not see how their ploys can have a real effect on the lives of those to whom they market. This past January, The Lego Group received criticism from an unlikely source, a (admittedly adorable) handwritten letter from 7-year-old Charlotte Benjamin. She complained that all the girl Legos do are "sit at home, go to the beach and shop" and "had no jobs" while the boy Legos "went on adventures, worked and saved people, had jobs and even swam with sharks."

The inequality and lack of vision of The Lego Company's gender expectations is so blatant that a first grader took it upon herself to scribble her grievances to a

\$14.6 billion dollar company. If Charlotte can take on the absurd marketing of toy blocks, then so can toy merchandisers.

It is true that some boys and girls naturally gravitate towards toys that are produced for their gender. Dr. Gad Saad, a professor of marketing at Concordia University, researched the theory that states all toy preferences are learned through societal conditioning. Dr. Saad found that across cultures, children in their pre-socialization stage of cognitive development (in other words, who are not yet able to be influenced by outside sources) show sex-specific inclinations. His research also concluded that hormones play a part in toy preferences; girls with highly masculine features and behavioral patterns show more masculine toy preferences than other females without said characteristics.

However, simply because some nature is involved in children's desires for toys, does not mean that stores should continue to perpetuate expectations by dividing products up into distinct categories. Kids should be allowed, if not encouraged, to expand their horizons, especially through playtime. And though Dr. Saad supports the idea of inborn partiality towards certain toys, he still appreciates that gender roles are in part learned via the socialization that stems from offering little boys and little girls "gender-stereotyped" toys to play with. Dismantling the barrier between types of toys would only have positive effects for future generations. Young children should decide for themselves what their likes and dislikes are, not be manipulated by flashy colors associated with their gender, scenes in TV commercials or signs in stores.

On Nov. 22, a mother in England had a surge of Internet attention after tweet-

ing a photo to @LetToysBeToys, a UK-based movement that is asking retailers to categorize children's toys by theme or purpose, instead of gender intention. Karen Cole posted an image to Twitter of her 7-year-old daughter angrily pointing to a Tesco sign that reads "Fun Gifts for Boys." Cole made it clear that her daughter loved superheroes and was "not impressed" about being told they were not aimed at girls. No marketing strategy should ever make kids feel left out, regardless of gender.

Some arguments go much further than the issue of inclusiveness. In Australia, The Greens political party has encouraged consumers to participate in "No Gender December," in which parents buy children gender-neutral toys, instead of those that are typically thought to perpetuate stereotypes.

A spokesperson for the party, Larissa Waters, made broad statements claiming that seemingly innocuous aisles of segregated pink and blue actually have extraordinarily negative long-term effects, including expectations for career paths and future predictions of domestic violence.

While Waters' opinion may be a bit extreme, The Greens party has the right intention with "No Gender December." Children should discover their preferences and broaden their imaginations by their own volition. Parents should avoid putting their own expectations on their children by supporting them with a passive love.

If parents foster this kind of support and acceptance for their children, there is no societal boundary placed upon the child regarding any future career path, life experience or behavior expectancies, which is why toy manufacturers should get rid of separation and expectations with "boy" and "girl" toys.



PHOTO COURTESY/PRESLEY REED

**Girls and boys toys:** Items that are clearly marketed based on the difference between genders does not promote equality of the sexes.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WANT TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION? GO TO  
TRAIL.PUGETSOUND.EDU TO COMMENT

*Editor's note: this letter is a response to letters published in the Dec. 5*

*issue of The Trail.*

Dear Puget Sound Community,  
I am writing to express my concern that the way in which we have recently been approaching academic discourse is robbing us of the benefits that engaging in true dialogue has to offer. We enrolled in a liberal arts school with the perception that all of our opinions would be listened to and respected.

For many of us, coming to Puget Sound was an escape from the judgment we had experienced in other communities. We sought a place where we could express our own views and also attempt to understand others; even if they were contrary to our own. Over the past four years, I have witnessed this foundational liberal arts sentiment dissolve.

Historically, Puget Sound has prided itself for being an eclectic community where every opinion is worth considering, no matter where it comes from. As a result, we created a space in which socially progressive, but nationally unpopular opinions, could be expressed without reproach.

But whether it is in retribution for past repression, or whether it is merely the nature of a community finding its voice for the first time, Puget Sound has developed its own rigid social creed. Thus, for the people among us who do not subscribe to our popular set of beliefs, our campus is a threatening place. We have created a new type of liberal arts culture, but it is, unfortunately, an illiberal arts culture: a culture of fear.

As a political-ly active liberal arts community that has made leaps of progress on many pressing social issues, we have given voices to many, ignoring the fact that our new manner of discourse has silenced many others. In expressing an unpopular opinion, students run the very real risk of being labeled ignorant, insensitive, or downright immoral; too often we make the mistake of equating "uncomfortable" with "immoral."

By labeling people this way, we threaten demonizing dissenters to a point where we don't have to listen to them in any context. This is an injustice to the person at whom it is directed, and a detriment to our collective learning. At this point in our conversation, it is imperative that we remember to periodically reflect on how our methods of pursuing social progress affect others' ability to engage in the dialogue.

In order to reclaim the open discourse that we strive to encourage on this campus, we must be careful that in expressing our own opinions, we do not make contradictory opinions taboo. If we do not learn to argue with logic, instead of labels, such constructive debate is unlikely to even occur. Although some points of view may be offensive to us, it is important that we consider them for the same reasons that we want our own opinions to be considered.

Two weeks ago, many of us updated our Facebook statuses to re-

flect our opinions on the recent exoneration of Darren Wilson. Due to reductive media coverage of this event, it is not surprising that many of us had polarized opinions about the Grand Jury's decision to let Wilson walk free.

At first, I was happy to read constructive conversations in which people engaged in open discourse about the topic. However, as soon as any dissenting opinions were presented, I was disgusted to see the intolerance with which Puget Sound students reacted to each other's input. As our peers began to redact their initial stances, and others ceased to comment altogether, soon not a single person on my news feed dared to express a position they felt was locally unpopular.

Statistically speaking, there is a very slim chance that everybody felt the same way about the issue, and even in a forum designed for open discourse, not one person felt safe to speak out against the local majority. This shows me that our current methods of discourse do not meet the standards of openness to which we should aspire, and it highlights the biggest challenge facing our campus culture: learning to consider conflicting perspectives without feeling the need to socially coerce our opponents into silence.

By only engaging with those who share our opinions, we deceive ourselves in two ways: first, we assume that we are surrounded only by people that agree with our position on a given issue, and second, through only receiving positive reinforcement, we assume that we are righteous.

It is this second deception that is the biggest threat to achieving a liberal arts understanding of the world, a doctrine to which we have all willingly ascribed. By closing ourselves off to contradictory opinions, we cheat ourselves out of the benefits of being a part of a liberal arts community, for it is only within such ideological friction that true learning can take place.

It is my hope that as we continue to grow as individuals and as a community, we learn to celebrate the expression of all ideologies and opinions, even if we do not celebrate the ideas themselves.

Sincerely,  
Adam Saltzer  
Class of 2015



PHOTO COURTESY/PRESLEY REED

**Academic discourse:** Puget Sound must learn to accept and understand other points of view, even if we don't agree with them.

To the Trail:

In last week's issue of *The Trail*, a letter to the editor appeared responding to a number of pieces that had come out in support of a transparent investment and socially responsible investment (SRI) campaign two weeks before.

The author, Oliver Field, expressed his disapproval of the campaign. As participants in the campaign, we are happy to have sparked campus wide conversation and would like to respond to a few of Field's points.

Field is correct when he remarks that Puget Sound's divestment from fossil fuel companies would be a symbolic gesture. Divestment is a political strategy intended to voice our disapproval of the production and use of fossil fuels, considering their contribution to climate change.

While we may do our best, as individuals, to minimize our carbon footprint, it is virtually impossible to live in our society without, as Field points out, consuming fossil fuels via travel, heating, etc. Because the availability of alternative fuels on the market is extremely limited, our ability to protest the use of fossil fuels by refusing to consume them is limited.

Rather than acting only as consumers, then, we must also act as investors to put pressure on energy companies, making it known, on the investment end as well as the consumption end, that we wish for these firms to change their practices. We can conceptualize the decision to divest as a withdrawal of intellectual as well as financial capital. Universities like Puget Sound are leading entities in societal thought, and thus hold more intellectual capital than they do financial stock.

By divesting, universities make a statement against environmentally destructive practices, joining a movement that, as it continues to grow, has an increasing chance of convincing companies to listen. Without this political pressure, fossil fuel companies are not investing in alternative, sustainable energy to the degree that Fields suggests. Compared to the total amount of money these companies invest each year, the amount they put into alternative fuels is minimal, and shrinking.

While BP did state at one point that their new slogan was "Beyond Petroleum," in 2010 BP divested \$3.1 Billion from their sustainable wind projects. As of April of this year, BP has halted any new investment in renewable energy, stopping its 18-year campaign to go "Beyond Petroleum." BP is not alone

in this trend; in June, Chevron began to divest from their alternative energy operations as well. As long as fossil fuels remain the most lucrative energy product, the investments these energy firms do continue to make in alternative fuels will not be intended to replace fossil fuels, but will rather continue to be used as a branding technique, leading environmentally conscientious consumers to support these companies in the belief that they wish to change their practices. We believe that these practices will not change without activist input on all fronts, including the stock market.

In failing to provide such input as investors, we also run the risk of hindering other forms of activism. During 2014 alone, BP has spent \$4,230,000 in lobbying expenditures to keep the industry under-regulated. The industry as a whole spent \$102,741,477 on campaign contributions alone during this last year. Allowing companies to make these contributions without protest from activist investors makes it easier for them to weigh down legislative activism, thus hurting other fronts in the environmental movement. The endowment of this university is intended to provide returns in perpetuity by making stable investments that will continue to pay out for the foreseeable future. Investments in fossil fuels are finite, as we can no longer pretend that we can use fossil fuels in the long term, considering their contribution to global climate change.

Since we know that investments in fossil fuel companies are not financially sustainable, making such investments does not reflect the goals of the university's endowment, and there are sound fiscal as well as environmental reasons for reinvesting the school's money. We believe that, regardless of the angle from which one examines the issue, the right path for Puget Sound is to examine its current investments, divest from fossil fuel companies, and reinvest in firms not associated with the fossil fuel industry.

Considering both the environmental damage fossil fuel companies' primary products inflict and the likely instability of these companies' stock as climate change worsens, the school, by implementing an SRI strategy, would both make an environmentally conscientious political statement and help safeguard its financial future.

Sincerely,  
Special subcommittee of E.C.O. on Socially Responsible Investment  
Sierra Coccoziello '15  
Emma Casey '18  
Sophia Salus-Kleiner '18  
Giulia Alexander '18  
Curtis Mraz '18  
Chris Eichar '16  
Emily Smaldone '17

## The five most useless "YouTube Challenges" of all

By SOPHIE CARR

YouTube has given this generation a vast platform to express ourselves, be it through anime-mixed music videos, funny cat compilations or how to play guitar tutorials. Yet there are genres within the YouTube community that should truly be labeled as dubious entertainment.

1. Social experiments have become a disease on YouTube, and not because the most recent video "Drunk Girl in Public (edit: Awareness Skit)" went viral. Like this one, many of these productions are staged, often uncomfortable and most often slightly racist. YouTuber Chescaleigh explains on her channel how these

prank or "social experiment" videos have become formats used to antagonize other races, specifically in low-income neighborhoods that are largely populated by black people or other people of color.

"Yeah, those things just make me uncomfortable. I also don't really get the point," sophomore transfer student Rachael Garrison comments.

Not only do they reinforce negative stereotypes, but they're maybe just a bit boring.

2. In a perfect world, parodies would only be made by professionals—perhaps music video directors or even writers. Lonely Island, for example, and their inexcusable ballad, "I'm on a Boat," incurred a flood of YouTube parodies parodying a parody. To watch

any of these is an encouragement to abandon this vessel and toss yourself overboard with a small hope of drowning.

3. According to YouTube's info page, 100 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute. And it would seem that every minute, every hour is spent uploading tribute/montage videos on YouTube, just by the number alone. And yet the sheer amount of montage tribute videos, typical homages to a favorite television character or characters, are unquestionably moving... me toward psychosis.

Comedian Michael Swaim, content creator of Cracked TV, dedicates an episode of his Internet comedy series to "The 8 Least Necessary YouTube Tributes"—all of which comprise stills from

hit 90s comedy, "Home Improvement."

"This stunning tribute to 'Home Improvement' brings together a lot of the elements we're looking for: Low view count, inexplicable five star rating, and a minimum of effort."

No amount of star wipe, page peel or dissolve iMovie effects can heal a nation from losing Tim "The Tool Man" Taylor. Watching these short films is emotionally exhausting.

4. The one ultimate, unforgivable sin of the Internet video medium is the YouTuber who misleads the viewer from the video's title into thinking they had recorded a certain event when in actuality it's simply them talking about the event. There is no need to further

elucidate. This, plain and simple, is treachery.

5. Sequels to viral videos are consistently indicative of nosedive Internet fame. The follow up to an Internet hit always savors of disappointment.

"I recently watched a video made by the guys who created 'What Does The Fox Say?' only this one was called the 'Trucker's Hitch.' It was pretty bad," sophomore transfer student Lucy said.

It would be best if we all boycotted viral video sequels, if only to protect the pride of renowned youtubers. If someone has created a pièce de résistance of a viral hit, unsubscribe from them immediately. They have to learn.





# HEY YOU! Where’d the Hey Yous go?

Consider sources’ motives before promising anonymity. Reserve anonymity for sources who may face danger, retribution or other harm, and have information that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Explain why anonymity was granted.

—Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics

Dear readers:

The Hey Yous have long been a tradition here at *The Trail*. They offer intrigue, gossip, missed connections, and—something that I really value—a way for readers to directly engage with what gets printed in this newspaper. A recent incident, however, brought to the forefront a number of apprehensions I’ve had about the Hey Yous for several years now. In one of this semester’s issues of *The Trail* a Hey You directly targeted an individual in a hurtful way; neither I nor our team of four other copy editors who check the pages before they go to print realized that the Hey You contained identifying information. And that wasn’t the first time, nor even the second or third time, that something similar has occurred—that a member of our community felt directly targeted and was hurt by a Hey You in this paper. Though many are well meaning, even the flirty Hey Yous, when the source is anonymous, can target individuals in hurtful ways, negatively impacting the atmosphere of safety and inclusion we are trying to create on this campus.

I no longer believe the Hey Yous are sustainable and I am no longer willing to provide a space in *The Trail* for anonymous messages that have caused harm to our community. If you have thoughts or feedback—including an alternative way to directly engage the community—I would love to hear it in the form of a letter to the editor or a comment on our website, trail.pugetsound.edu. Letters to the editor should be addressed to trail@pugetsound.edu and should be a maximum of 500 words.

—The Editor-in-Chief.



PHOTO COURTESY/KEN AVIANANDA

**Intimacy:** It’s a no-brainer that physical intimacy can also lead to emotional intimacy when partners share personal feelings, thoughts, and desires. Due to chemical processes that happen in the brain after a sexual encounter, these conversations tend to be more positive than they would be if they were had at any other time.

By PAT N. DIAZ

‘Tis (almost) the season to rely on snuggling with a sexual partner for warmth: winter. In the colder months, scholar Jed Diamond found that testosterone levels decrease in both men and women, resulting in a lowered sex drive. This could mean that there will be less boning in your relational future and more pillow talk instead.

*Pillow talk can determine relationships; it can also be used to create and strengthen relationships, or dissolve them completely.*

Pillow talk is the act of conversing with a partner following any intimate activity, generally while lying in bed. Often, pillow talk involves touching, caressing or cuddling and is often associated with disclosing positive emotions about a partner.

Communication scholars Amanda Denes and Tamara Afifi were equally intrigued by the going-ons of post-coital disclosures in their 2014 study. Denes and Afifi researched the way orgasms and alcohol influenced communi-

cation between partners after sex.

Denes and Afifi found that “individuals seem to perceive the post-orgasm context as a time when it is permissible to share positive or warm feelings with their partners and disclose more personal information.”

Senior Louie has found Denes and Afifi’s findings to be true in his personal life. “In my experience [pillow talk has] been about sharing pretty intimate feelings with someone,” Louie said. “A lot of talking about your relationship, or even stuff that you’re concerned with or anxious about. I think a lot of people tend to feel vulnerable with someone they can have pillow talk with and share a ton.”

The Communication scholars discuss how the phenomenon of positive pillow talk discussions could be due to a surge of oxytocin released after an orgasm. Junior Huey, however, does not find their findings to be true from his experience.

“That’s funny, I usually just fall asleep after I have an orgasm. I’m too tired to have a long, meaningful conversation,” Huey said. Huey’s sentiment does not negate other findings regarding the effects of oxytocin on male- and female-bodied individuals. In fact, it is possible that the hormone testosterone dampens the effects of oxytocin, resulting in less disclosure from male-bodied individuals after the “Big O.”

Denes and Afifi also found that people who consume alcohol prior to sexual activity are less likely to have meaningful, in-depth discussions post-coitus.

“That doesn’t surprise me,” Louie said. “When I have sex after I have consumed alcohol, sex acts as less of an emotional release and more of a physical release.”

Senior Duey notes that age, body confidence and availability can also affect pillow talk.

“I think pillow talk changes with your age, I feel more comfortable with it now that I feel more secure and more comfortable with my body. I guess that it might be different if you are in college, especially at the University of Puget Sound, because students here are so busy and are constantly on the move. They don’t have time to sit and talk,” Huey said.

Pillow talk can determine relationships; it can also be used to create and strengthen relationships or dissolve them completely.

“I had a

friends-with-benefits relationship with this guy,” Louie said. “He was really nice, but I never wanted to be in a relationship with him. One evening after we had sex, we talked for four hours. You can’t have pillow talk with a friends-with-benefits and I could tell he was getting feelings for me, so I had to end it.”

Pillow talk does not necessarily require the involvement of romantic feelings and emotions.

“I’m the kind of

the person that enjoys someone’s company, so it doesn’t have to be lovey-dovey,” Duey said. “I just have to be comfortable with the other person. I think the vulnerability of being naked with someone in bed allows for open conversation.”

Remember to keep warm this holiday season, stoke your fire and chat afterwards for the best holiday gift of all.

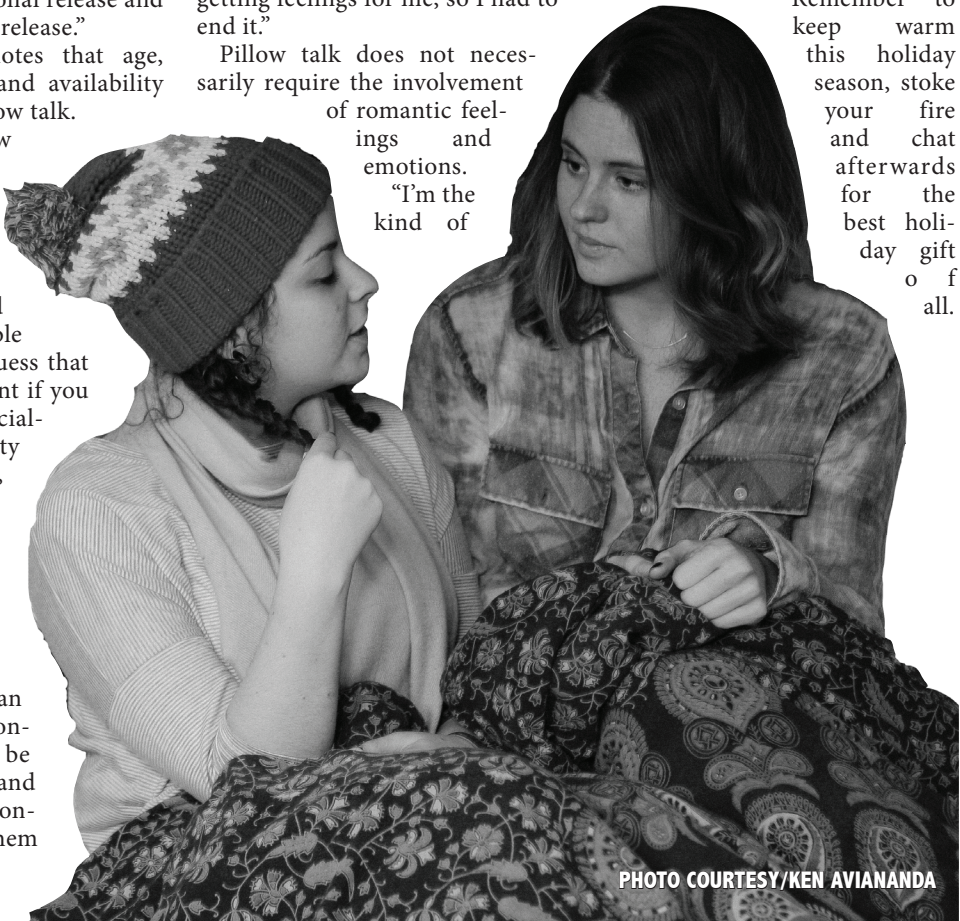


PHOTO COURTESY/KEN AVIANANDA



1925. Outdoor lights first offered commercially, leading to first neighborhood decorating competitions



HECKING/MADISON BOWDEN

# es behind your latte

Photos by Presley Reed III



ally someone's routine part of their day, just getting coffee, and ing to enjoy. For so many people, coffee is just another part of n the morning, they get coffee and then they just move on with ing special at that point in their day is something that I really en- instantly trying to get better at what I do. I really like the idea that e I can make a latte. There's a number of ways I can keep trying  
**Kyle Dybdal**



2014, Point Defiance Zoo. First year the zoo has switched completely from incandescent lights to light-emitting diodes (LEDs) for increased energy efficiency. Zoolights this year will feature 167 light 'figurines', including Mt. Rainier, a giant octopus (100 feet wide!), and the iconic purple and green Flame Tree.

1988, Point Defiance Zoo. First official Zoolights open to the public

1987, Point Defiance Zoo, Wash. Current operations director Scott Clarke first strings a few lights throughout the zoo for the holiday season.

# Book collecting contest calls for submissions

By ADA SMITH

Calling all bibliophiles: Your time to shine has come. How do you arrange your bookshelf? Is it by genre, or by author? Do you arrange by the color of your book or the size? Or is it some combination of all three? Whatever way you organize your tomes, you now have the chance to win up to \$750. Every other year, Collins Memorial Library hosts a Book Collecting Contest with cash prizes. There will be a prize for one collector (\$750), for the best essay (\$500) and a third prize of \$250 sponsored by Collins will be offered this contest.

Getting this money is easier than you might think. To start, either organize your existing collection in a thematic manner or pick a theme and start collecting. The guidelines put a cap on the collections at 30 books, so try not to get too carried away. Once you have your books, help the judges figure out why you picked the ones you did in a two-to four-page essay. The winner of the last contest was "Hunting the Dark Night: Books on the Batman"

by Ian Fox.

If you are floundering about what makes a winning collection, all of the winning collections and the essays that went with them can be found online via the library's website.

Our own contest is a part of a much larger organization called the National Book Collecting Contest. The organization is actually a combination of several separate organizations that sponsor the prizes. Some of them include the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America (ABAA), the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) and the Center for the Book and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division (Library of Congress). Their website states: "the program aims to encourage young collectors to become accomplished bibliophiles."

Our own competition is partly funded through our library, but the majority of the money comes from the Book Club of Washington. Its mission is "to further the interests of book collectors and scholars and to promote an understanding and appreciation of line books."

While most people picture a book

collection being something like a library, with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves filled with ancient leather-bound collectibles worth more money than you will ever make in your life, or books that are emhrined in glass showcases that are worth a small island. a book collection doesn't need to be anything so complicated or expensive. It can be as simple as your favorite childhood series of fairytale and a few books giving iterations or commentary on that story. The books can be as contemporary or as mainstream as you want, or you can buy all the books online or used. What matters is the content and how it fits together.

This contest is a rare opportunity to either hone and perfect an already existing collection of books or to reward yourself by taking up a meaningful and entertaining hobby.

The deadline for the applications is March 26, 2015. For more specific guidelines for the competition and to read past winning essays, visit the Collins Memorial Library's website.



PHOTO COURTESY/KEN AVIANANDA

On Monday, Dec. 8, approximately a hundred members of the campus community participated in "We Can't Breathe—A Die-In for Solidarity." The demonstration was a protest of Eric Garner's death by strangulation by a police officer as well as the high levels of targeting of people of color by law enforcement. "One purpose of this demonstration is to express how many people on our campus re struggling with or have been moved by recent events, events that confirm and continue the long history of police violence against African Americans and the failure of the nation to ensure the right of equal protection of the law for all," the protest's Facebook event page said.

By ROSA BRANDT

As the days get darker and finals are approaching, many students are familiar with a magical phenomenon that occurs each December: Zoolights at the Point Defiance Zoo. Whether you have never even heard of it, or are a devoted annual returnee, this glorious display of colored lights and holiday spirit is sure to bring happiness to the bleak time of preparing for finals week.

For those who are unfamiliar with Zoolights, it is simply the zoo decorated with more than half a million Christmas lights. From Nov. 28 until Jan. 4 the zoo is open later into the evening (until 9 pm) allowing guests to wander the pathways admiring the impressive light displays, purchase hot chocolate, spend time in the indoor South Pacific Aquarium, and more.

However, how much do students actually know about Zoolights? In fact, there is quite an interesting history about the tradition of Christmas lights in general that is little known.

Let it be noted that there is a wide variety of legends and stories, making it difficult to determine what happened first, and where. This timeline highlights a sample of important historical occurrences and legends that have led to the popular tradition of Christmas lights and eventually Zoolights in particular.

However, amongst this timeline of legend, invention, tradition, and consumerism, it is important to remember what lights (of any sort) represent in this season. During the darker days, light represents the promise of the return of longer days, and keeping hope. During World War II, lit trees expressed hope for a peaceful future, and this metaphor can still be relevant today, in various ways. Whatever light means to you, and whether it relates to your religion or just personal significance, remember that importance. Let it be a pleasant constant through the cold and dark of the winter season.

Take time to enjoy the lights around you, whether on a tree, in your neighborhood, or at Zoolights. It truly is a magical way to get in the holiday mood.

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# Women’s basketball continues great season

By ROXANNE KRIETZMANN

The Puget Sound women’s basketball team took on the University of California at Santa Cruz Banana Slugs and the Colorado College Tigers Dec. 5 and 6 at a tournament hosted by Pacific Lutheran University.

The Loggers remain undefeated this season after walking away with two wins over both teams during the tournament.

First, the Loggers defeated the Slugs 53-51, handing them their second loss of the season.

During the first half, Puget Sound shot into the lead right away.

After allowing the Slugs two points, the Loggers bounced back, scored nine consecutive points, and never looked back.

The Loggers maintained a field goal average of 41.4 percent and a three-point average of 36.4 percent, soaring far above the Slugs’ averages of only 31 percent and 33.3 percent, respectively.

What really set Puget Sound ahead in the first half was their free throw percentage.

The Loggers made an average of 71.4 percent of their free throws while the Slugs fell behind with an average of only 45.4 percent made.

The Loggers ended the first half with an eight-point lead to propel them into the next half.

During the second half, the Loggers increased their free throw percentage to 75 percent while the Slugs were unsuccessful all five

times that they were at the free throw line.

Although the Slugs achieved higher average field goal and three-point percentages in the second half, they were still no match against Loggers’ offense who had twice as many offensive rebounds.

Senior Amanda Forshay (Morga, Calif.) led the Loggers in points, scoring 10, as well in free throws, making five out of the six she shot.

*The Loggers maintained a field goal average of 41.4 percent and a three point average of 36.4 percent.*

Senior Katy Ainslie (Redmond, Wash.) and junior Allie Wyszynski (Sammamish, Wash) each added 10 points to the scoreboard.

The next day, the Loggers dominated the Tigers 94-45.

The Tigers came in with a losing record of 0-7.

The Loggers pulled ahead in the beginning of the first half, allowing the Tigers to only score two points in the first five minutes of the game.

At the end of the half, the Loggers were leading by 31 points.

While the Tigers fought hard, scoring consistently during the second half, they were again no

match for the Logger’s defense who put up a total of 30 defensive rebounds compared the Tiger’s 21.

This game, Puget Sound had a field goal average percentage of 59.2 and scored off 45.5 percent of their three-point shots.

The Tigers proved unsuccessful when trying to measure up to the same level of play as the Loggers.

They had a low field goal average percentage of 32.7 and made zero percent of their three-point shots.

Although they lacked successful field goal shots, the Tigers showed skill in their free throws. They made 69.3 percent of their free throws, while the Loggers only made 50 percent.

Junior Emily Sheldon (Portland, Ore.) and Forshay both made two free throws, and first year Mickaela Limper (Kapolei, Hawaii) made one.

Overall, the Loggers had 42 total rebounds, scored six points off fast breaks and had 17 steals.

Forshay again led the Loggers in points, scoring 21, and Sheldon followed not far behind, scoring 20 points.

Forshay also led in rebounds, putting up nine, and in assists, scoring five.

After these two wins, the women hold a record of 7-0 and have two more games before they open conference play on Jan. 3 when they will take on the George Fox Bruins.

The women will next take on the Cal Lutheran Kingsmen on Dec. 20 at home.



Take the shot: Amanda Forshay dodges a defender in the Loggers’ Saturday game against Colorado College.



Success: Loggers gather for a picture after winning their tournament.

# New season, new way of determining a champion

## A look inside the new NCAA playoff system instituted this year

By THOMAS OVERTON

The NCAA Division I football playoffs are a new feature to college football this year. The teams were selected on Dec. 7 and will play their respective semifinal games on Jan. 1 2015.

The Bowl Championship Series championship game was the previous version of championship that the NCAA used, but after multiple controversies over the selection of the two competitors in the championship, the College Football Playoff (CFP) was implemented starting at the beginning of the 2014 season.

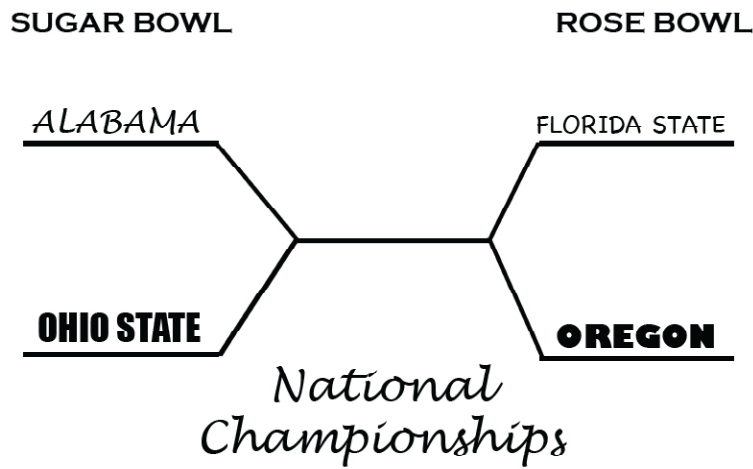
The CFP competitors are selected by a committee of 13 experts on the sport.

According to the CFP website, the committee is made up of five current athletic directors from each of the major conferences in college football, the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Big 10, the Big 12, the Pac 12 and the Southeastern Conference.

The other eight members are all retired athletic directors, players, coaches and media members.

These 13 members are selected by a vote submitted by each of the conference commissioners in NCAA DI college football and they each serve a three-year term before a new committee is selected.

The current members are: Chairman Jeff Long, athletic director for the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; Barry Alvarez, athletic director for the University of Wisconsin at Madison; Lieutenant General Mike Gould, former superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy; Pat Haden, athletic director for the University of Southern Califor-



nia; Tom Jernstedt, former NCAA Executive Vice President; Oliver Luck, athletic director for West Virginia University; Archie Manning, former University for Mississippi quarterback and All-Pro NFL quarterback; Tom Osborne, former athletic director and head coach for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln; Dan Radakovich, athletic director for Clemson University; Condoleezza Rice, Stanford University Professor and former US Secretary of State; Mike Tranchese, former conference commissioner for the Big East Conference; Steve Wieberg, former college football reporter for USA Today; Tyrone Wellingham, former head coach for Washington University.

The four teams selected on Sunday Dec. 7 were: No. 1 Alabama University, No. 2 University of Oregon, No. 3 Florida State University and No. 4 Ohio State University.

The decision was met with some complaints as only four of the “power” conferences in college football got seats in the four-spot playoff. But the committee members antici-

pated this and had a level-headed response to the complaints, voiced by Pac-12 commissioner Larry Scott.

“Everyone can do the math. Four slots and five big conferences, and beyond the five big conferences there are other strong teams. So any bellyaching about not getting in, I don’t think people are going to react to that. We went into it expecting it to be controversial, expecting at least one conference to be on the outside looking in,” Scott said in an interview after the selections were made.

“If you know you’re guaranteed a spot for your conference champion in the playoffs, you care less about what’s going on in other parts of the country,” Scott said.

Junior student and University of Oregon fan Jace Hanson voiced his opinions on the new system in an interview prior to the committee’s decision.

“It’s better than the old system,” Hanson said. “But I do think there are too many teams that are irrelevant [in college football].”

Women’s Basketball Schedule		
Away	Home	Date and Time
Evergreen State	Puget Sound	Dec. 10, 6 p.m.
Cal Lutheran	Puget Sound	Dec. 20, 4 p.m.
Puget Sound	George Fox	Jan. 3, 4 p.m.
Wilamette	Puget Sound	Jan. 9, 6 p.m.
Pacific (Ore.)	Puget Sound	Jan. 10, 4 p.m.
Lewis and Clark	Puget Sound	Jan. 16, 6 p.m.
Linfield	Puget Sound	Jan. 17, 4 p.m.
Puget Sound	Whitworth	Jan. 23, 6 p.m.
Puget Sound	Whitman	Jan. 24, 4 p.m.
Pacific Lutheran	Puget Sound	Jan. 27, 6 p.m.
George Fox	Puget Sound	Jan. 30, 6 p.m.
Puget Sound	Pacic Lutheran	Feb. 3, 6 p.m.
Puget Sound	Pacific (Ore.)	Feb. 6, 6 p.m.
Puget Sound	Willamette	Feb. 7, 4 p.m.
Puget Sound	Linfield	Feb. 13, 6 p.m.
Puget Sound	Lewis and Clark	Feb 14, 4 p.m.
Whitman	Puget Sound	Feb. 20, 6 p.m.
Whitworth	Puget Sound	Feb. 21, 4 p.m.

The semi-final match-ups work like a traditional seeded playoff system, with the highest seed playing the lowest and so on.

No. 1 Alabama will play No. 4 Ohio State in the Allstate Sugar Bowl at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, Lou. on Jan. 1 at 5:30 p.m. pacific time.

No. 2 Oregon will play No. 3 Florida State in the Northwestern Mutual Rose Bowl at the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, Calif. on Jan. 1 at 2:00 p.m. Pacific time.



# Katy Ainslie stands out in her senior year as the women’s basketball team crushes competitors

By LUKIE CROWLEY

Katy Ainslie (Redmond, Wash.) is on the top of her game this year as a senior and is looking to lead the Loggers’ women’s basketball team to a conference title in her final year. She averaged 13.3 points per game and 5.1 rebounds so far this season.

The Loggers are off to a 7-0 start this season and don’t seem to be letting up anytime soon after beating Santa Cruz 53-51 this past Friday Dec. 7 and crushed Colorado College 94-45 on Saturday Dec. 8.

Ainslie added 10 points in the first game and in the second she racked up six points. The week before she was named the Northwest Conference Student-Athlete of the week after providing a double-double when scoring 25 points and 11 rebounds against Concoridia in the 69-56 win.

Ainslie didn’t even realize it. In fact social media was what alerted her.

“I didn’t even know! I saw it on Twitter actually, and it’s definitely cool to be recognized, but more importantly the success our team is having is more important than any individual award I could get,”

Ainslie said.

Her talent is seen in so many ways and is highlighted by her teammate, junior Emily Sheldon (Portland, Ore.).

“She has the most consistent jump-shot you will see. We call her Dirk (Dirk Nowitzki, NBA player) because she has a signature move where she turns around and hits a jumper (similar to Dirk’s). You just can’t guard her, and there is only so much you can do when guarding her because she shoots so well. She is also aware about who’s having a good shooting night and finds them. She makes everyone on the team better,” Sheldon said.

Her talent on the court is notable, but what really shows is her leadership in that she makes everyone around her that much better, while also being a consistent teammate. Sheldon elaborated about just that.

“Katy’s definitely the ideal teammate to have because she works so hard and she’s so caring about every single person on the team, she is the leader and does everything right all of the time. She doesn’t get down on herself when she makes mistake,” Sheldon said.

The chemistry has played a huge part in the recent success and Ainslie can’t say enough about how

wonderful it is to be a part of the team.

“I honestly step on the court whether it is a practice and a game and whether I’m personally having a good game or not, it’s always fun to play with this group of girls,” Ainslie said. “It doesn’t matter if I score two points or 20; I’m always having fun. I think we really push each other to make each other better and reach our full potential because we all know what we are personally capable of, and if I don’t see someone working hard, I will call them out. And if I’m not working out, I will be called out. Being accountable is really important.”

The coaching staff has taken their chemistry to the next level.

“I think the coaching staff is on the same page as us this year, and that is something we may have not really seen in years past. They make sure we are going our hardest 100 percent of the time,” Ainslie said.

The coaching staff and the team’s chemistry have contributed to the strong start overall, but there are a few games that Ainslie has marked down on the schedule, especially in conference.

“Some of the teams in conference I am really looking forward to playing. Whitman and George



**What a Star:** Katy Ainslie rightfully won NWC Student Athlete of the Week after a series of impressive performances.

Fox are two teams I have never beaten while [at the University],” Ainslie said.

Those games will be focused on for sure, but for Ainslie, leaving the season without any regrets is the most important focus.

“I want to leave senior year not having any regrets,” Ainslie said. “I think that is the biggest motivation for me is to be able to look at my four years and be satisfied with everything I have accomplished. I

don’t want to end my senior year and feel like I should have done something more and could have done something more.”

The way the season is going, it doesn’t look like she will have to worry.

# Men’s basketball team continues to strive for greatness

The Loggers have managed to further improve their record to 4-2 after a decisive win against the University of California at Santa Cruz Banana Slugs. Several players majorly contributed to a final score of 65-52 with junior center Keith Shattuck (Lake

Forest Park, Wash.) finishing 5-for-11 from the field, scoring 15 points for the Loggers and senior guard Erin Barber (Puyallup, Wash.) finishing 5-for-12 from the field, scoring 14 points. Only two Loggers ended the game having scored in the double digits.

By ZAL ROBLES

The Puget Sound men’s basketball team beat the University of California at Santa Cruz 65 to 52 on Dec. 5 to improve their record to 4-2.

With the team’s win again UC Santa Cruz, the Loggers have increased their winning streak to three games. The previous two wins came during the Loggers’ road trip when they traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Loggers’ 65-point win was only three points behind their season average. They are currently averaging 68 points per game through five games.

What was most impressive for the Loggers’ offense was that they scored 40 points in the second half.

Junior center Keith Shattuck (Lake Forest Park, Wash.) finished the game 5-for-11 from the field with a team leading 15 points. Senior guard Erin Barber (Puyallup, Wash.) finished 5-for-12 from the field with 14 points. They were the two Loggers who finished with dou-

ble-digit points. The Loggers finished 41.5 percent (22-53) from the field.

“We have a lot of guys that can score and we try to take good shots each possession,” junior guard Matt Reid (Olympia, Wash.) said.

The Loggers’ defense dominated the game holding UC Santa Cruz to a measly 29.8 percent from the field, the lowest field goal percentage an opponent has had against the Puget

*“We focus on getting more offensive rebounds than the other team each game. We work to crash the boards hard both offensively and defensively and it has paid off so far.”*

—Matt Reid

Sound men’s basketball team. UC Santa Cruz’s 23 points in the first half is thus far the lowest amount of points scored against the Loggers.

“We stayed in front of them and forced them to make tough shots,” Reid said.

Senior guard James Osorio (Mountain View, Calif.) anchored the defense with 10 defensive rebounds. Osorio finished the game with 11 total rebounds. Barber added six rebounds to the team’s total.

“We focus a lot on getting more offensive rebounds than the other team each game. We work to crash the boards hard both offensively and defensively and it has paid off so far,” Reid said.

The Loggers finished with 41 total rebounds compared to UC Santa Cruz’s 39. The plus-two margin is far below the average rebound margin for the Loggers. Per game, they average a positive 7.2 rebound margin. The Loggers average 38.2 rebounds per game.

The team hopes to continue to emphasize to contest every shot. The game against UC Santa Cruz has encouraged the team to continue to play tough. The Loggers want to put themselves in a position to win the conference championship this season.

“We just need to improve every day. We’ve got to keep practicing hard and improving from game to game so that we can be our best at the end of the year,” Reid said.

The Loggers’ next game is against Portland Bible away on Dec. 9 starting at 6 p.m. Portland Bible is an out-of-conference game. The Loggers start conference play against George-Fox Jan. 3 at 6 p.m., an in-conference game.



**I’m Open:** Senior Erin Barber prepares to make the sideline pass.

Scorecard

Men’s Basketball

Dec. 5

UC Santa Cruz 52

vs.

Puget Sound 65

Women’s Basketball

Dec. 5

Puget Sound 53

@

UC Santa Cruz 51

Dec. 6

Colorado Col. 45

@

Puget Sound 94



The Combat Zone is intended to be a satirical work. The views and opinions expressed by the Combat Zone do not necessarily reflect those of The Puget Sound Trail, ASUPS, concerned parties or the University of Puget Sound. Please submit compliments or complaints in the form of letters to the editor.

# Thrift shops are dangerously low on ugly sweaters

By COWMAN BLACKMAILER

Thrift stores surrounding Puget Sound are beginning to shut down due to an influx of sales and decrease in donations. Store owners are scrambling to keep their charitable cause alive and discover the truth behind the recent trend.

“I noticed that more middle-class customers began shopping in my store around the middle of 2012,” owner of a local thrift shop, Randy Daniels said. “Ever since, traffic has exponentially increased, especially within the young adult crowd, and the issue isn’t just new customers: it’s that this group was previously our largest donor base.”

Coincidentally, local musicians Macklemore and Ryan Lewis had recently released a single titled “Thrift Shop” at this same moment in time. The song celebrates shopping in thrift shops for its frugal qualities and disassociation with corporate brands. The single was a huge success selling over seven million copies in the United States alone. Since its release, the artist’s work has closely been associated with the genre “hipster hop” due to its popularity among the “hipster demographic,” a group largely comprised of young middle-class Americans.

Despite this evidence, most students who belong to this group claim to have shopped at thrift stores long before the track emerged; although these same students’ Facebook photos would reveal a stronger loyalty towards brands like Hollister prior to the release.

“Thrift shopping isn’t some



**Hideous:** Ugly sweaters really only have a place in your grandma’s wardrobe. Oh wait...even your grandma wouldn’t wear this monstrosity. You should really be ashamed of the fact that you even own such an ugly sweater, never mind the fact that you wore it out in public.

fad, it’s an affordable way to upgrade your wardrobe,” a student in a sweater with a design similar to a bowling alley’s carpet said. “I think the clothes are just as stylish as something you would find in a department store.”

Many now believe that students who religiously shop in thrift stores are not the only issue. Among the closing stores, most have reached a consensus that the rebirth of the “ugly christ-

mas sweater party” was the final nail in the coffin. With the spike in sweater sales, many stores have run out of winter inventory and are shutting down until further notice.

“The ugly sweater unites all social, economic and ethnic groups,” Daniels said. “It has become an iconic party theme. Thrift shops just can’t keep up with that kind of demand.”

Daniels refuses to shut down

his store despite having no winter apparel to sell. He has begun pulling summer items out in order to stay in business.

“The weird thing is: it’s working. These hipsters keep coming back and buying whatever ridiculous fashion I put up,” Daniels said. “They can’t be stopped, their obsession with these stores is driving them insane. Just the other week a student walked out of my store into 30 degree weath-

er in an old pair of yellow running shorts and a camouflage tank top.”

Daniels encourages other struggling shops to sell any spare articles of clothing they can scrounge together. He is convinced these students will buy anything secondhand, regardless of how ridiculous they appear.

# Tumblr slacktivism surprises haters with real results

By HUTCH THE GREAT

Following recent events, students have taken to social media with the fervor and knowledge that they can solve every problem imaginable with the properly crafted Tumblr post or social media action. It is now possible to solve sexism through Twitter, environmental destruction through Facebook, bullying through Yik Yak and poverty through Instagram. People also will soon be able to solve homelessness through Snapchat. The possibilities are endless, which has ensured that various other companies have jumped on this bandwagon.

On Dec. 2, entitled #GivingTuesday, Macy’s, CVS and Paul Mitchell (which proves you can always trust some-one with two first names) all took to their

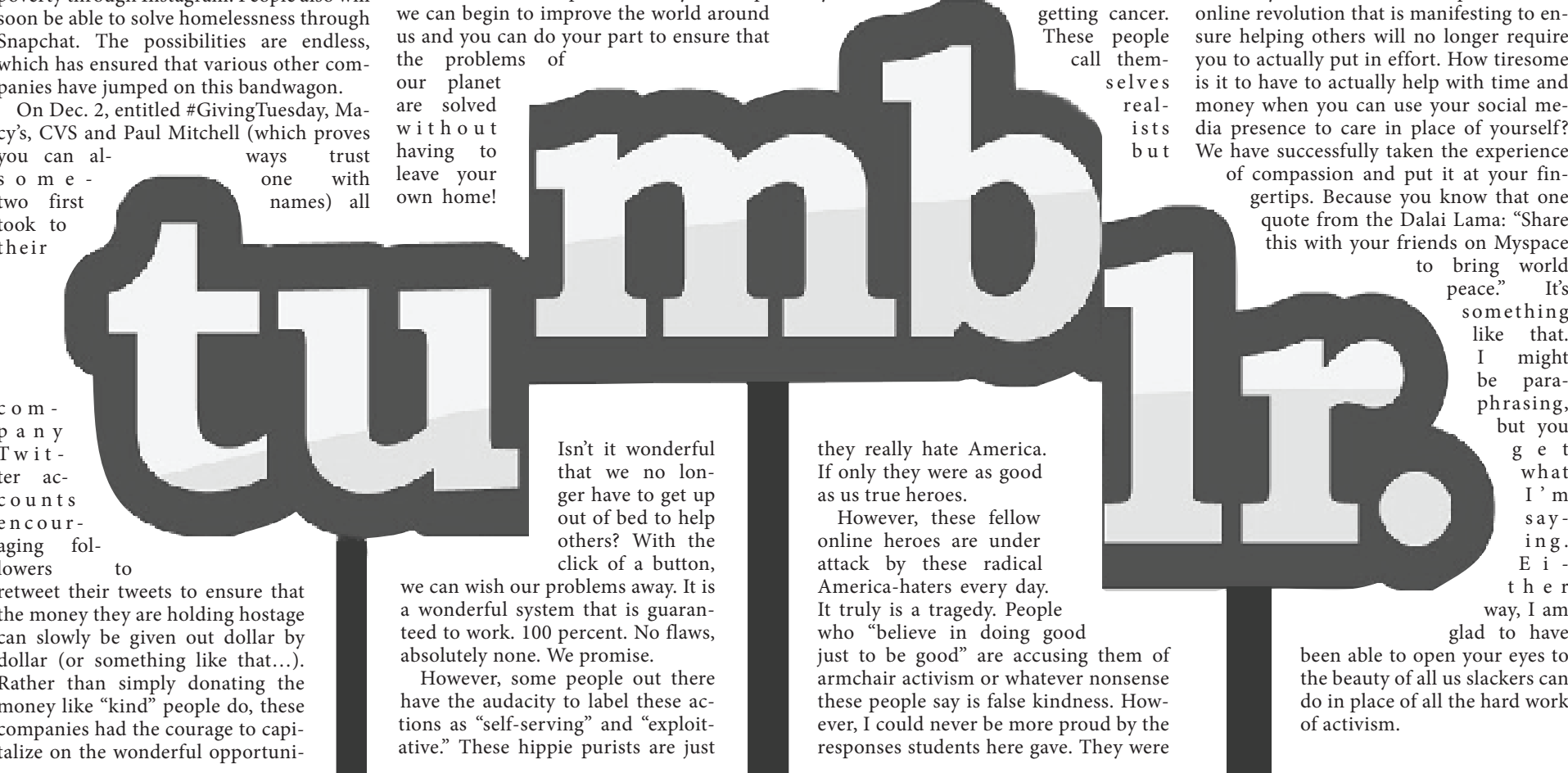
ty of people suffering from cancer as a PR opportunity. Because we here applaud this brave step taken by these companies, we hope to make a separate offer in the spirit of giving set by these companies this holiday season.

For every “like” this article gets online, we will give .00001 cents to the charity of our choice (to be determined in the year 2100) to ensure that we do our part to make the world a better place. With your help, we can begin to improve the world around us and you can do your part to ensure that the problems of our planet are solved without having to leave your own home!

way out of line, and don’t want us to do all the good we can do. They even criticized me for wearing all pink to raise awareness about cancer! They say “only a miniscule portion of the money you pay goes to cancer research and you would be better off donating it rather than buying an excessive amount of clothing so you can brag to your friends about it.” Which, you know... clearly means that they just want everyone to continue getting cancer. These people call themselves realists but

truly inspiring and hilarious comebacks in defense of our movement. These brilliant students clarified that they normally sit in a futon in their dorm, not an old armchair that no one uses anymore. Not only are these students very kind, they are so witty too! Us heroes are gorgeous, kind, and just great people. That’s why we share those posts all day, so you can all know how great we all are too. You’re welcome, America.

I really could not be more proud of the online revolution that is manifesting to ensure helping others will no longer require you to actually put in effort. How tiresome is it to have to actually help with time and money when you can use your social media presence to care in place of yourself? We have successfully taken the experience of compassion and put it at your fingertips. Because you know that one quote from the Dalai Lama: “Share this with your friends on Myspace to bring world peace.” It’s something like that. I might be paraphrasing, but you get what I’m saying. Either way, I am glad to have been able to open your eyes to the beauty of all us slackers can do in place of all the hard work of activism.





TACOMA DICKENS FESTIVAL

By CASEY DEY

A festival of people? What the Dickens are you talking about? The Tenth Annual Dickens Festival, that's what! 'Twas a weekend filled with unique activities in the guise of Victorian England to establish an overwhelming sense of community. The festival occurred in the Stadium District in Tacoma, Dec. 6-7.

It is difficult to find the words to describe what a truly lovely experience the festival gave its participants. The world of Charles Dickens was brought to life in an unexpected way. The festival was not completely centered around Charles Dickens and his work, but rather around the ideals he stood for and wrote about—the community of people. Community was established and celebrated in a variety of ways. First, well over fifty small businesses were represented, either through vendors and performers in the main showroom; restaurants, cafes and pubs that hosted free or discounted items for participants; the

various shops that hosted events; and the many sponsors who donated gifts for the costume/beard contests and ads in the festival handouts. It was a great way to see what the Stadium Business District has to offer. Community was also established in the huge variety of people who arrived to enjoy the fun. From kids to adults, from first-timers to veteran festival attendees and even from people just passing through to people going all-out with their costumes; everyone had a wonderful time. One lady stole the show by dressing in a white wedding gown and remaining in character as Miss Haversham from *Great Expectations*—all day long! Her efforts paid off when she won the “Best Dickens Literary Character” award in the costume contest.

Saturday consisted of a fundraiser marathon—Run Like the Dickens—a series of shows and songs in multiple locations. A ball and silent auction took place in years past, but they were replaced this year with a “Procession of Stars,” much to the disappointment of veteran festival-goers.

There were four places hosting events and shows, so people were kept on their toes to see as much as they could. The majority of the events happened in the Titus Will Showroom, and some highlights included an excerpt from *Scrooge the Musical* (playing now at Tacoma Little Theatre), *Duo Finelli* (two ladies performing a comedy skit for all ages), former mayor Bill Baarsma's story of *Jack the Bear* (an 800-pound black bear who lived at the Tacoma Hotel in the late 1800s), and festival hosts Mario and Frances Lorenz performing an authentic musical. Children also loved the “Procession of Stars,” first in creating the stars in the month prior and then getting to participate in a parade with them.

Sunday hosted a very unique concert by John Doan, a world-renowned collector of harp guitars, and a local historian and music professor at Willamette University. The instruments are incredibly rare and his playing was other-worldly. This particular concert focused on the classic Christmas tradition of home and the hearth. This added beautifully to the sense of community established by the rest of the festival.

Festival hosts Mario and Frances Lorenz started the festival 10 years ago after Frances joined the Stadium Historic Business District Board as chair of the Holiday Committee.

Prior to living in Tacoma, the Lorenzs lived near Galveston, Texas—home to one of the biggest Dickens festivals in the nation—for five years. They enjoyed the festival in Galveston so much that they decided to bring it to Tacoma.

Frances was delighted with this year's level of participation. She said the crowds always depended on the weather, but despite the rainy start to the day, there was active participation all day. A favorite Dickens quote of hers was “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” as it seemed to represent life for her and the world right now.

Colleen Allen ran the auction chair this year, gathering all the items to be used for the silent and live auctions that would have occurred at the ball. She said it was a lot of

work, as the meetings to start planning the festivals began in January, but she enjoyed the process. She was particularly excited for the “Procession of Stars,” a new addition to the festival this year.

Adam Martin was extremely passionate about the stars. He served on the committee to add this to the festival.

“Tacoma's Lumins Festivus is an autumn holiday unique to the City of Destiny. Their first year's theme in 2012 was the ‘Stellar Galactic Zoo of Life,’ so, when the Dickens team asked [me] to include a luminary in this year's festivities, [I] decided to take the simplest element from last year's theme—the stars—and to focus the ‘Procession of Stars’ on the elements of life shared in common across South Sound communities.

“There is a light in all of us. We celebrate that,” Martin said.

Martin also works with a group dedicated to joining the arts with learning and life in the South Puget Sound, as well as contributing to the “Tacoma's Outsiders Guide,” a great resource for anyone looking to get more involved in Tacoma. He said students at Puget Sound tend to find themselves in a bubble, but his work allows people to get out of that and experience what this great city has to offer.

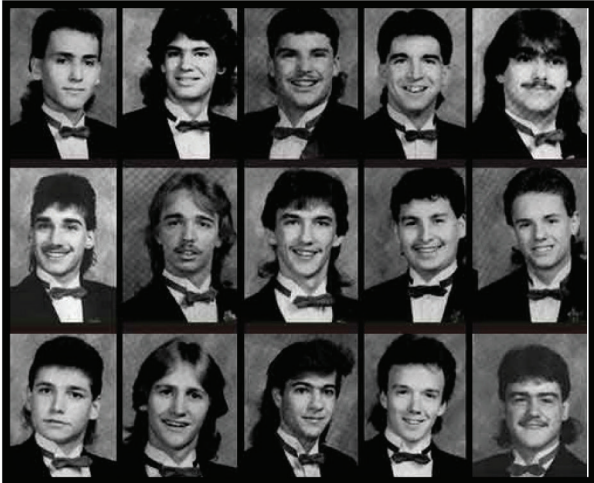
If you're looking to get involved in Tacoma, this festival is a great way to do it. There are some truly wonderful people in this town, and



PHOTO COURTESY/CASEY DEY

**Veritable Hosts:** Dickens Festival hosts Mario Lorenz and Frances Lorenz. Their love for the Galveston Dickens Festival inspired the two to start the Tacoma Dickens Festival 10 years ago.

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PHOTO COURTESY/CASEY DEY

this festival was a wonderful celebration of them. As we enter this holiday season, let us never forget Dicken's famous words: “God bless us, every one!”

Looking for more articles? Check out [trail.pugetsound.edu](http://trail.pugetsound.edu) for even more coverage.



A female mallard wing specimen, part of the Slater Museum of Natural History's vast collection of plants, birds and other creatures. On Dec. 4 the Slater Museum hosted Duck, Duck, Goose: Waterfowl Night, a continuation of the Night at the Museum series.

PHOTO COURTESY/SLATER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

# DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE

By JAMES KANER

This past week had students and families alike flocking to the Slater Museum of Natural History to take part in the latest Night at the Museum.

Thursday, Dec. 4 marked Slater Museum's Duck, Duck, Goose: Waterfowl Night exhibit, which welcomed anyone interested to learn about our fine-feathered, water-inclined friends and the invitation was not ignored by the Tacoma community.

The museum's atrium was filled with the buzz of college students wandering from station to station, excited murmurs from families taking in all the museum had on display and the sounds of museum personnel explaining it. Of course, this all came along with the museum's signature scent.

A veritable army of carefully preserved ducks and assorted waterfowl captivated audiences of all ages in the main room as children and students got to paint decoys to look just like the real thing. Museum docents and other staff were also available to explain the preservation process, as well as provide background information about the lives of these birds in the wild.

The stars of Thursday night's exhibit were the many kinds of waterfowl that call the Pacific Northwest their home and undoubtedly the museum itself as it helped spotlight one of the many ways natural history museums give back to their communities.

Nights like Waterfowl Night extend an open invitation to the greater Tacoma area and invite the public to learn more about what's in their backyard, and perhaps more importantly, what we're doing to study them.

The Slater Museum offers more than just cool exhibits, as this semester saw the beginning of a new program offering a chance for stu-

dents to earn extra course credit and learn more about the museum itself.

These student volunteers or "docents" helped operate each station Thursday night and each had a different lesson, ranging from the many duck specimens the museum owns to some truly rare samples of local waterfowl.

Each docent is expected to be well versed in the many different specimens that the museum keeps.

The Slater Museum has been a staple of campus learning from the time of its creation. This museum could not have happened without the tireless work of Professor James R. Slater, after whom the museum is named.

The museum comes from humble beginnings, starting as a cramped attic storeroom in 1930 and evolving to encompass much of the second floor of Thompson Hall.

The museum undoubtedly owes its growth to Slater's trailblazing of the (at that time) largely unexplored field of amphibians and reptiles native to the Tacoma

area. From his research, a collection grew of various amphibian and reptile specimens and since then many more specimen collections have accompanied it. The museum's collection grows at a rate of about one to two percent per year.

Of these specimens the museum is probably best known for its vast collection of bird families that al-

lows them to dedicate entire nights to specific species like they did on Waterfowl Night.

Each of these bird families helps the museum's personnel teach different lessons covering important topics like genetic diversity, the evolu-

tion of viruses and bacteria and how natural history museums such as the Slater Museum can help contribute to society.

What's in the museum can at its core can be split into three different categories. It boasts an impressive mammal selection totaling nearly 30,000 specimens including skulls,

full skeletons and skins. Its bird section totals 23,000 specimens. If the designs on docents shirts are anything to go by, it is quite the iconic selection.

These two sections are in addition to the original amphibian and reptile collection, which has grown considerably over the past few decades. In addition, the museum boasts vast collections of insects and plants,

making its Night at the Museum series possible. Aask any docent working at the museum and they'll tell you one of the most common misconceptions they hear (usually from children):

"Why did you kill a l l these animals?" With practiced patience they respond by saying that all of their specimens are donated and that their hands are clean. Museum technicians, often drawn from the student body, simply prepare the donated specimens for preservation and display.

The museum's website offers detailed instructions on ways ordinary citizens can contribute to the organization by either contributing fi-

nancially or by donating specimens to the museum's collections.

The Slater Museum takes it one step further, however, through their Nature in the Classroom program, which has docents and senior museum staff venturing into fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms in the Tacoma area armed with a few museum specimens and a lesson plan ready.

The Slater Natural History Museum goes to the lengths of hosting museum nights, reaching out to local schools and offering the public access to their vast collections in the name of a noble goal: to teach the community at large about the world they live in.

## HOW MANY?

The Slater Museum of Natural History has one of the largest collections in Washington State and in the region. It has:

23,000 BIRDS

8,200 AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

6,000 INSECTS

29,500 MAMMALS

13,000 PLANTS

For more coverage on Slater as well as other articles, go to trail.pugetsound.edu